

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

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"We come together at St. Mark's to praise God, celebrate His love for us, and grow together in Christ by equipping the people of God to implement and spread His Word to the world."

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor

443.257.2730 | reveugene@comcast.net

Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, Pastor Emeritus

Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling

Baltimore/Washington Conference

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

*District Superintendent
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, February 4, 2023

Black History Month

Women Heart Month

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

Ushers:

Gemma Desouza-Ottley and Ralph Laquerre

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Augustus, Worship Leader



Prelude Mr. Sheldon King

Lighting of the Candles Usher

Gathering Song..... St. Mark's Choir/Congregation

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Greeting/Call to Worship Sister Cynthia Augustus

Leader: Arise! Shine! For the light has come!

People: How brilliant and glorious is our God!

Leader: Arise! Shine! For the light is here!

People: The awesome God commands our attention.

Leader: God invites us, share the week, the year, your life with me.

ALL: Arise! shine! Let's worship God in the beauty of holiness.

Hymn of Praise Choir / Congregation

“Lift Every Voice”

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.
2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past,
till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts drunk with
the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

God, you gave the tablets carved with your covenantal hope for all creation. We confess that it was not only Moses who broke those tablets long ago in anger. We confess that we break your heart daily when we ignore your ways of love and choose our own way. Give us the courage to offer ourselves to be transfigured, to be empowered to be commissioned as your disciples. God of Sinai, call us where we are needed and inspire us to respond with whole and healing hearts. **Amen.**

The Invocation.....**Sister Cynthia Augustus**
Song of Meditation **St. Mark's Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1**Sister Cynthia Augustus**
(*Isaiah 40:21–31, Common English Bible*)

- ²¹ Don't you know? Haven't you heard?
Wasn't it announced to you from the beginning?
Haven't you understood since the earth was founded?
- ²² God inhabits the earth's horizon—

its inhabitants are like locusts—
stretches out the skies like a curtain
and spreads it out like a tent for dwelling.

²³ God makes dignitaries useless
and the earth's judges into nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely is their shoot rooted in the earth
when God breathes on them, and they dry up;
the windstorm carries them off like straw.

²⁵ So to whom will you compare me,
and who is my equal? says the holy one.

Power for the weary

²⁶ Look up at the sky and consider:
Who created these?
The one who brings out their attendants one by one,
summoning each of them by name.

Because of God's great strength
and mighty power, not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, Jacob,
and declare, Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord,
my God ignores my predicament"?

²⁸ Don't you know? Haven't you heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the creator of the ends of the earth.
He doesn't grow tired or weary.

His understanding is beyond human reach,

²⁹ giving power to the tired
and reviving the exhausted.

³⁰ Youths will become tired and weary,
young men will certainly stumble;

³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles;
they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.

Scripture Reading #2Sister Cynthia Augustus

(1 Corinthians 9:16–23, Common English Bible)

¹⁶ If I preach the gospel, I have no reason to brag, since I'm obligated to do it. I'm in trouble if I don't preach the gospel. ¹⁷ If I do this voluntarily, I get rewarded for it. But if I'm forced to do it, then I've been charged with a responsibility. ¹⁸ What reward do I get? That when I preach, I offer the good news free of charge. That's why I don't use the rights to which I'm entitled through the gospel.

¹⁹ Although I'm free from all people, I make myself a slave to all people, to recruit more of them. ²⁰ I act like a Jew to the Jews, so I can recruit Jews. I act like I'm under the Law to those

under the Law, so I can recruit those who are under the Law (though I myself am not under the Law). ²¹ I act like I'm outside the Law to those who are outside the Law, so I can recruit those outside the Law (though I'm not outside the law of God but rather under the law of Christ). ²² I act weak to the weak, so I can recruit the weak. I have become all things to all people, so I could save some by all possible means. ²³ All the things I do are for the sake of the gospel, so I can be a partner with it.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Black History Moments Sister Cynthia Augustus

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /
Announcements Sister Cynthia Augustus**

**Blessing of the Offering Sister Cynthia Augustus
Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) Sister Cynthia Augustus
(Mark1:29–39, *Common English Bible*)**

Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law

²⁹ After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. ³¹ He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them.

Jesus' ministry spreads

³² That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered near the door. ³⁴ He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn't let the demons speak, because they recognized him.

³⁵ Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. ³⁶ Simon and those with him tracked him down. ³⁷ When they found him, they told him, "Everyone's looking for you!"

³⁸ He replied, "Let's head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That's why I've come." ³⁹ He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

The Gloria Patri – "Glory Be to the Father" (Hymnal, #71)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

Hymn of Preparation St. Mark's Choir

Inspirational Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

"Experiencing Our Desert Places"

"Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer.

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection

Holy Communion

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Celebrant

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth, And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray

The Lord's Prayer *(recite by choir)*

Breaking the Bread

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Giving the Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world

in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Benediction



Happy Birthday February Members Birthday

Aisha Wilson — 5th

Jeffrey King — 10th

Leatrice Tingle — 14th

Nena Hughes — 16th

Lavar Thomas — 20th

Jason Thomas — 21st

Charles Gregg — 27th

Charlotte Thomas — 29th



Heavenly Birthdays

Shirley Carey — 2nd

Ellen Gibson — 8th

William Gibson — 14th

Eleanora Davis — 14th

Elva Wesley — 17th

Ellen Brooks — 20th

Bessie Matthews — 25th

Norman "Mike" Thomas — 29th

William & Ellen's Anniversary — 17th

Harold and Mildred Awkward — 17th

Announcements

Wearing a mask while in the sanctuary is at your discretion.

Worship Attendance — 01/28/2024	
In-Person	49
YouTube	10 (Est.)
Total	59

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, our youth and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84500345294?pwd=TUR4ZGpySU5ub0E1blhUQVNNQW9YQT09>,

Meeting ID: 885 7118 4455; Passcode: 459563

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960.

This is not goodbye,
This is not farew'ell...*

Pastor's Goodbye/Farewell — If you have an interest in working on the committee to plan Rev. Matthews Goodbye/Farewell celebration, please let Cynthia know. Someone from Finance and Culinary is a must. Thank you.

Thursday, February 8st (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal.** Tina will update the choir through text.

Saturday, February 10th (10:00 a.m.) — **Trustee Meeting** in the Sanctuary

Sunday, February 11th (morning service) — **Rededication of Church Officers.**

Wednesday, February 14th (7:00 p.m.) — **Ash Wednesday Service** via Zoom (information forthcoming). Facilitated by Jaime Coffen. Please have your ashes available.

Attention Women: Roundtable Recharge Retreat. Cancelled.

Note from Finance: First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church and place it in church mailbox
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks —
<https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarkslmd>)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

*Condolence to the family of
Overseer Henry Allen Tindal, Jr.*

Homegoing Celebration

Viewing: Friday, February 16th (4:30 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.)

*Service: Saturday, February 17th (final viewing: 10:00 a.m., service 11:00 a.m.),
8728 Liberty Rd, Randallstown, MD 21133*

*Immediately following the homegoing celebration, the family will honor Overseer Henry Tindal, Jr. with a procession to **First Church of Faith, Power, and Deliverance “The Hope Church”**, 1300-1302 E. Eager Street, Baltimore, MD 21205*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that needs special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730),
reveugene@comcast.net.

Delores Stratford, Keith Davis, Elba Hernandez, Nathaniel Watkins, Judith James, Isabella Dustin, Joseph Ballard, Robert (Bobby) Marshall, Oscar Johnson, Harold (Bubby) Awkward, Jr., Tyrone Awkward, William (Jimmy) Scott, Charles Gregg, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette and Elaine Harvey, All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Shawn Settles, Floyd Hughes Sr., Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia’s Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Eric Smith, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Ernestine Gibson, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

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